

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

now show him no sign of gratitude, not so much as thanking him, but the vice of envy and ingratitude is casting the poison of slander and much murmuring against him. I should not like him to be treated thus, nor any one else who served you ; for it would be an offence to God and loss to yourselves. All the commonwealth needs wise, mature, and discreet men, and of a good conscience. Let it no more be so, for the love of Christ crucified. Adopt what remedy seems meet to your lordships, in order that the simplicity of the churlish may not interfere with your welfare. I say this for your own good, and not for any partiality of mine; for you know that I am a stranger, speaking to you for your own good estate, because I value you all, together with him, as much as my own soul. I know that, like wise and discreet men, you will consider the affection and the purity of heart with which I write to you, and so you will pardon my presumption in venturing to write. Be grateful, be grateful to God." ¹

She wrote at the same time to Count Alberigo and his *caporali*, who had not returned to Rome, but were still in the field, pressing on the campaign against the remnants of the Clementines in the Campagna, where Marino was being besieged by the Roman People. Perhaps she already knew that a portion of the Compagnia di San Giorgio was on the point of accepting money from Clement, when she wrote : " with desire of seeing you, you and all the rest of your company, faithful to Hoi) Mother Church and to the Holiness of Pope Urban VI, true Sovereign Pontiff, all combat royally and faithfully for the truth that you may receive the fruit of your labours" ; but, at least the letter is nothing but a prose poem in honour of ideal Christian chivalry. Not otherwise might Dante have addressed his warriors of God in the glowing red sphere of Mars. " O brothers and dearest sons, you are knights who have entered the field to give

your lives for love of life, and to give your blood for love of
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blood of Christ crucified. Now is the time of the new
martyrs
You are the first who have given blood. How great is the
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that you[^]wld receive for it? It is life eternal, which
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¹ *Letta* 349 (i9<5), corrected b₇ the Harleian MS.
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